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LETTER DATED 29 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Please find attached herewith statements issued by the United States delegation led by Ramsey Clark, former United States Attorney General, which returned from Khartoum after its visit to Al-Shifa pharmaceutical factory that was destroyed by United States bombs on 20 August 1998 (see annex).

The delegation stated that they have abundant documentation that the United States charges are completely false.

I should be grateful if you could distribute the present letter and its annex as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statements issued by the International Action Center

U.S. solidarity delegation visits Sudan

On Sept. 15 a delegation from the International Action Center, headed by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, left for the Sudan. The human rights delegation will visit the site of the El Shifa pharmaceutical plant destroyed by U.S. cruise missiles on Aug. 20.

The El Shifa plant, which went into production just two years ago, raised Sudan's self-sufficiency in medicine from 3 percent to over 50 percent and produced enough veterinary medicine for all of Africa.

Since the bombing the U.S. has been unable to offer a shred of evidence to justify this wanton act of terrorism. Protests have taken to the streets across the U.S. and throughout the world.

In solidarity with the Sudanese, the delegation is bringing $25,000 worth of antibiotics and anit-malaria medicines. The group includes Dr. Sapphire Ahmed, an African American physician who has previously worked in the Sudan, and Dr. Mohamed Haque, president of the Islamic Medical Association. Sara Flounders, John Parker and Richard Becker are representing the IAC.

The group, which includes a videographer, plans to visit hospitals, health clinics and refugee centers and to interview doctors, representatives of UN agencies and women's organizations. The goal is to assess how the destruction of El Shifa plant impacts on health in the region.

Sara Flounders, a coordinator of the IAC, pointed out, "If the U.S. had bombed a Sudanese hospital, that would have deprived the patients in that facility of medical care. But destroying a vital pharmaceutical plant creates a health crisis in Sudan and all across Africa that will continue to reverberate. This was a far more destructive and calculated terror attack by the Pentagon."

When the delegation returns, members will present reports and video and photographic evidence of their fact-finding trip. For more information, call the International Action Center.

U.S. Delegation Led by Ramsey Clark Returns From Fact-Finding Mission in Sudan

Clark Calls for "Restitution" in Destruction of Sudanese Factory

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General, and a delegation from the International Action Center (IAC) will return to the U.S. early September 22 after a fact-finding mission to Sudan. During their mission they visited the Al Shifa pharmaceutical factory that was destroyed by U.S. bombs on August 20, 1998. The delegation interviewed surviving workers, families of the victims of the surprise attack, UN representatives, and visited refugee centers.

Speaking on September 20 at a demonstration of thousands of Sudanese people, Ramsey Clark apologized for the destruction of the Al Shifa pharmaceutical factory and called for the U.S. to make financial restitution, according the Associated Press reports.

"The U.S. claimed that they had credible evidence that the Al Shifa plant was producing weapons, but that's a lie," said Sara Flounders co-coordinator of the IAC a member of the delegation to Sudan.

"**The fact is, we have abundant documentation that the U.S. charges are completely false**. This was a life-saving pharmaceutical factory. Even the *New York Times* said in an article on Monday that the decision to destroy the only pharmaceutical factory in Sudan was based on guesswork. The U.S. wanted to punish the Sudanese for their independence and to show the world that the Pentagon can and will bomb anywhere, anytime with impunity."

The Al Shifa plant, that went into production just two years ago, raised Sudan's self-sufficiency in medicine from 3 percent to over 50 percent and produced enough veterinary medicine for all of Africa.

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14 at the International Action Center's office at 39 West 14th Street at 7:00 p.m. Video evidence and eyewitness testimony will expose the U.S. bombing and its ongoing effects on the people of Sudan.

For information or an interview with the delegation call 212-633-6646.